

record, would you run the risk of evading Border Patrol rather than presenting yourself, getting in line, being processed and being released within a few weeks? The reason for that is that many of them have criminal background records.

We had 750 recently apprehended who were documented members of gangs in their country of origin. These are people that are coming to this country and quickly going to the communities that they are most like and making those communities less safe for the people who are legally present or the people who have been relocated over the past couple of years with the flood at the border.

You also have to understand that the cartel—the reason the administration has to recognize this is a crisis is the cartels made an estimated \$800 million over the last 12 months paying a toll to come to this country. If you are in a Latin American country or South American country, you are paying an average between \$5,000 to \$7,000 per person. If you are from China, you are paying about \$35,000. These cartels have set up a marketing function. They go to these source countries and say: If you pay us a fee, we will get you to the United States, in spite of the fact that they have may have passed through other safe countries that they could seek asylum.

That is what we talk about when we are talking about abusing our asylum system. Our international treaties say that if somebody comes to you and you have a credible fear for your life or your family's life in the country that you live, relocate to a country that can grant you asylum and go through the process. But what the cartels are saying: Pay us a fee. We don't care where you are in the world—literally—and we will get you to the United States. And you will pass through several countries where you could have applied for asylum in between.

And then when you get here, the cartels have coached them on exactly what to say to make you think that they have a credible asylum claim, in spite of the fact that with hundreds of judges—Democratic judges, Republican judges, Independent judges—80 percent of those asylum claims are deemed not to be credible. So the asylum system is broken. It has to be fixed. It is one of the foundations of any kind of framework that I could support.

The border has to be secured, and we need more technology and more enforcement at the legal ports of entry because those same cartels who are making \$800 million a year are spending that money to then send truckloads of fentanyl and dangerous drugs poisoning and killing Americans.

I hope that in the next Congress, we can recognize, No. 1—hopefully the administration will recognize that we do have a crisis at the border and it can't be solved on partisan grounds. We have to have a conversation. Both ends of the political spectrum need to recog-

nize that you have to move to a point where we can produce a solution. Otherwise, Americans are going to be poisoned to death, and people trying to cross the border are going to die in the hundreds. It is a moral obligation that we have to get out of our political comfort zone and get something done. Otherwise, the deaths, the blood of the people who die as a result of inaction, will be on the hands of everybody in this room.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

AUTHORIZING LEASES OF UP TO 99 YEARS FOR LAND HELD IN TRUST FOR THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE CHEHALIS RESERVATION

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I know I am interrupting a very, very important debate, and I appreciate my colleagues being out here to discuss this. I know the Senator from Illinois, the leader, is also here to discuss this issue. I am asking if I could interrupt that for a second.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 591, S. 3773.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3773) to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Ms. CANTWELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3773) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3773

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE CHEHALIS RESERVATION LEASING AUTHORITY.

Subsection (a) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 25 U.S.C. 415(a)), is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting “, land held in trust for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation” after “Crow Tribe of Montana”.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleagues, Senator SINEMA and Senator TILLIS, for their statements earlier on the floor on the issue of immigration. A number of us are coming to the floor to discuss it today.

It is a sad day—sad because there are many people who are counting on this Congress to do something, who understood that we have an immigration system that is terribly broken and we are paying a heavy price for it, and there are many who are watching this proceeding today who are paying an even heavier price.

If we do nothing to help those who are protected by DACA, if we do nothing to help the Dreamers, court decisions may preempt us and may force some of these people to face the reality that they can no longer legally work in America and they are subject to deportation.

Many of these young people—and I will tell the story of one in just a moment—have spent their whole lives here in the United States. They have gone to our schools. They go to our churches. We see them at the high school football games. They work in the Dairy Queens. They are all over America because they are part of America—at least they think they are, but they are not. They are undocumented. Their parents brought them to this country when they were infants and toddlers and little kids. They grew up in this Nation thinking they were part of it, and then there was a day of awakening when the parents sat down and said: We have to tell you the truth. You are not here legally.

These are the Dreamers, people I have been trying to help for over 20 years. It is over 20 years since I first introduced the DREAM Act. I wanted to help them. I thought perhaps we could get something done. We haven't been able to. Unfortunately, today, it looks very, very unlikely that we will.

I hear in the comments from the Senator from Arizona and the Senator from North Carolina the bottom-line truth: Any reasonable, factual discussion or debate on immigration has to not only deal with the Dreamers and those who are here on undocumented status but also has to deal with what is going on at our southern border. The Senator from Arizona is correct. It is a humanitarian and security nightmare that is only getting worse. We are being flooded at the border by people who want to be safely in the United States.

I had an opportunity to meet some of those migrants who were bused to Chicago a few weeks ago and sit down across the table from them and hear their stories. I tell you, I recommend that to all who are interested in this issue. Hear the real stories of desperation and danger they faced in the countries they came from, and realize that their sentiments to be part of America, protected in America, have an opportunity in America, are the same sentiments that brought my grandmother to this country with my 2-year-old mother and her sister and brother.

I recall the stories. These are not people setting out to cheat some political system; these are people fighting for survival—Carlos, with his 4-year-

old daughter and his nursing infant and his wife, who spent 4 months in a journey from Venezuela to our border. In addition to that, there is an individual named Maria who is a college-educated individual in Caracas who left because of fear for her life. She came to the United States. During her trek to this country, she went through violent personal assault in Mexico. She broke down in front of us when she told us the story. These are real people, real human beings.

One of the bottom-line principles that should guide us—I think there are at least three, maybe more, but the ones that come to my mind are these:

We have to have an orderly process at our border. There has to be some system that monitors the number of people coming in and the circumstances that bring them here. That is No. 1.

No. 2, we should never knowingly allow anyone dangerous to come into this country. That is unequivocal. I hope everyone agrees on that.

Third, and this is the hardest part, we cannot accept at any given moment all of the people who want to come to America at that moment. We have to have an orderly, timely process that makes sense for America, that makes sense for our reputation as a humane nation and moves us forward along the right track.

I think of these Dreamers because I come to this floor so many times—five different times I have called up the DREAM Act for passage. Five different times I got a majority vote on the floor, but in the Senate, as most people know, it takes 60 out of 100, and I couldn't get the 60-vote margin five different times.

Years ago, 10 years ago, we had a Saturday morning vote. This Gallery was filled with these young people. They were wearing caps and gowns to tell the story that they want to be graduates of schools—high schools and colleges—and be part of America's future. When we lost that vote and didn't get our 60 votes, I joined with them at a church nearby, a Lutheran church, and there were a lot of tears being shed at that moment from me and from all the others.

I said to them at the time: I am not going to give up on you. Don't give up on me. We can do this.

That has driven me ever since. I reached out in every direction that I can think of to try to find allies in this conversation who will sit down on a bipartisan basis and fix this broken immigration system.

I want to thank the Senator from Arizona for taking the initiative on this issue along with Senator TILLS. I believe that their proposal, while I don't agree with it all, is the right starting point for the conversation and debate on a bipartisan basis. The real starting point has to be the true stories of the people who are going to be affected by this.

Let me tell you one, as I have before. This is the 132nd time I have taken to

the floor of the Senate to tell the story of a Dreamer.

This young man's name is Jose Flores Valor. Jose arrived in this country from Mexico when he was only 11 months old. He grew up in my home State of Illinois, in DeKalb, IL.

At a young age, he served as the interpreter for his family at their medical appointments. It was through these experiences, watching the doctors care for and provide support for his family, that his passion for healthcare bloomed. In high school, Jose enrolled in a certified nursing assistant course, and his goal was to eventually become a doctor.

It was not until he was 16 and his classmates were getting driver's licenses and making their decisions about colleges that Jose realized he was undocumented. Even though he was accepted into the University of Illinois in Chicago, his legal status meant he did not qualify for any Federal Government assistance or scholarships, and he could not afford to stay beyond the first semester. He didn't let that obstacle stop him. Jose sought other avenues for pursuing a career in healthcare and recently earned an associate of science degree from Kishwaukee College in Illinois.

On top of a busy academic schedule, Jose worked with a travel nursing agency as a certified nursing assistant. In this role, he traveled to six different States, working in rehab centers, nursing homes, and hospitals and provided care to our most vulnerable citizens.

When the pandemic hit, Jose was deployed across the country to meet urgent healthcare needs. His work took him far from home, which meant he was unable to be by his grandfather's side when his grandfather passed away from COVID. It was one of the many sacrifices Jose made to pursue his passion serving our Nation.

Today, Jose has earned a full scholarship at Loyola University in Chicago to complete his premedical studies and obtain a bachelor's degree.

Let me take a moment to say a kind word about Loyola University in Chicago. There are many great higher education institutions in my State and in our Nation, but they have gone out of their way to really show that they care for people like Jose. It was their Stritch College of Medicine which opened competition for the first time to DACA students all over the United States. They didn't give them a quota or say there was a certain number to be accepted but said: You can compete with everybody else for admission.

For many of these DACA students in Illinois and outside, it was the first chance they ever had to apply to a medical school. As a result, more than 25 students were accepted by Loyola Stritch College of Medicine, and here, they have accepted, with full scholarship, Jose Valor to complete his premedical studies on the way to a bachelor's degree.

He wants to attend medical school and begin his journey towards being a

doctor. He plans one day to open a clinic to help the uninsured and low-income people. He considered DACA his "opportunity to become a contributing member of society."

A simple question: Is America better or worse for having Jose living among us? Would we be better off if we just deported him back to Mexico? He came here before he was 1 year old. He didn't know a thing about the journey or where his parents were taking him. He has done everything right since—volunteering to help with healthcare, risking his own life during the COVID-19 crisis to help other people, doing the hard work that many people would turn away from, and now trying to finish college with a premed degree so that he can become a medical professional in America.

Do we need him? I need him in Chicago. I can think of places around our State where we are waiting for people with nursing backgrounds and medical backgrounds to step up and to treat American people.

One of the hospitals in Chicago came to see me last week. It struggles. It is in a tough neighborhood. The administrator of the hospital said to me: We almost closed down one of our departments, but luckily—luckily—we were able to bring in 30 Filipino nurses to augment our staff to keep that department open. Thirty immigrant Filipino nurses are keeping a department open in a major hospital in the city of Chicago. That story is repeated everywhere.

For people saying that we need no more immigrants, that we just don't need them, they are wrong. We need Jose. We need those nurses. We need people who will make this a better nation.

We have to do our work here. We have to deal not only with their situation, the undocumented situation, but also with border security. The Senator from Arizona was correct. It is a humanitarian and security challenge, and now it may have to wait for another day. We can't finish it this week. But when we do return to it, let's do it with an open mind and an open heart. Let's understand that we can make this a better and safer nation, a nation of immigrants who make us a better place, and we can have order at the border as well. That is the only thing that gives us any chance to thrive as an American nation into the future.

I look forward to working with the Senators. I thank them for their initiative and will do all I can to help them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SINEMA). The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I won't be able to work with you and others on this in the next Congress. I am coming to the end of my 26 years here. In a couple more weeks, I will move on to whatever is the next chapter, and I am excited about that. But I am frustrated that we haven't been able to do a better job with this issue.

First of all, let me say I heard maybe not all hundred-and-thirty-some of those speeches that Senator DURBIN has given, but I have heard a lot of them. Like him, I fully am supportive of the kids who grew up here being able to stay here. We should want them to stay here. We should eagerly be looking for ways to be sure they stay here.

One demographics matter, a younger society is a more healthy society in lots of ways, but also just the fairness of—asking somebody not to live where they grew up or even, more importantly, asking them to go back and try to live somewhere where they never lived before is a critical thing that we should easily be able to get beyond.

I actually thought the plan that Senator SINEMA and Senator TILLIS had put together had a lot of appeal because it didn't try to do everything; it tried to do just enough things that were doable and get them done together.

I have always thought, in 20-plus years of looking at this same challenge, that the comprehensive solution is unlikely to be the best solution we could achieve.

I was the whip in the House when I was in the House. It takes 218 people to get something done in the House. And when you look at the challenges before us, how do you secure the border? What are the legitimate workforce needs of the country? What do you do about people who came or stayed outside the law? What do you do about people seeking asylum? The same 218 House Members or the same 60 Senators that may be the best 218 House Members or the same 60 Senators to deal with the issue of “how do you secure the border” probably aren't the best 60 Senators to figure out what we do about the legitimate workforce needs of the country. And neither of them may be the best 60 Senators to figure out what we do about people who came or stayed without documents. It is about half and half, I think. Or none of them may be the best 60 Senators to figure out what is the very best way we can wrap our arms around people who grew up here and let them know for sure that we need them here, we want them here, and find that quick solution.

I, frankly, think the Dreamer problem is and should be the easiest problem of all of these problems to solve, because the alternative to solving that problem makes so little sense. It makes so little sense in a personal way. It makes so little sense in an economic way. It makes so little sense for our communities.

Whether they are sitting here in caps or gowns or everyday doing hard things in America in adding to their educational capacity, again, we should want that to happen.

The asylum system, clearly, is broken. It just can't work that you can walk up to the border in the United States of America and say: I come seeking asylum; I come with fear for

my life, or whatever. Living in a poor, dangerous country is not the criteria for asylum. In fact, that is why when people do go to the court to have their case heard, about 1 out of 10 times do they qualify.

Now, if somebody has told them before they got here that they would qualify or that the system just works in a way that, if you get here and get into the country, we are so far behind that you get to stay and who knows what might happen that allows you to stay longer than you think you might be able to stay.

The border—securing the border—is definitely a definition of one of the responsibilities of the country. If you can't secure your own border—no matter what country you are talking about—you really don't meet one of the entry-level definitions of a country. It is just incredibly basic, and we are not doing that.

Frankly, under the last administration, I think we were doing a lot of things right when it came to securing the border: a barrier where you needed a barrier, other things where you needed other things to monitor what was happening, being sure that people understood the likelihood that they would be able to make an asylum claim in court. All those things mattered and did matter—trying to be sure that people had the information they needed, and even a third safe country.

If your goal is to try to get to a safe country, that should be your goal. If your goal is trying to get to a country with a better economic opportunity, probably, it should be trying to come to the United States of America. But as Senator DURBIN said—and, I suspect, every Senator, when asked about this will say—everybody can't come here who lives in a country that is less safe or less economically successful than ours. It just can't happen. It is not possible. We can't have a border that allows everybody who has that desire and can get to the border to permanently be in the country.

But I thought the bill that I was very interested in, that we just ran out of time to get to, that looked at the asylum system, that was gaining strong support from the border guards and immigration officials who came to see me and others and said: Here is what we need; here is where the bill is perfect; here is where it could be made a little bit better, and if this happens, we are going to be unanimously for it—I thought that was the good approach. It didn't try to do everything, but it tried to do enough things that people could feel like we were making progress, building around what should be the easiest thing—the Dreamers—moving on to get border patrol and others who work with people at the border back into their real job, rather than the job of detaining people who really aren't here for the reason they say they are here, who know or will soon find out that they won't have an asylum claim. That is just not working. It is not

working that, no matter what anybody says, the border is clearly not under control.

It is hard to solve these other problems with a border that is not under control, but I thought the idea that we would move toward that control and have some sign-offs before we move further was really one of the good things in the bill that I was looking forward to seeing presented and debated.

It is time we had bills debated on the floor. It is time we shared more information and more thoughts. It is time we found the right number of Senators to solve these problems in the best way, rather than, frankly, not being able to find 60 Senators that have ever been able to come up with a comprehensive solution that will also pass the Congress.

I hope we can continue to pursue the right thing for our country, the right thing for Dreamers, the right thing for our economy and the workforce, the right thing for people who meet the skill needs of our economy, to come here and find jobs that are at the level of jobs that they are prepared for. We need to move forward.

Thanks to Senator SINEMA and Senator TILLIS for their efforts in this. I look forward to watching as, hopefully, we continue to move more dramatically toward the right goal for America and the right goal for people who want to be Americans.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KELLY. Madam President, I join my colleagues to discuss the importance of tackling the issues on the border and with our immigration system.

I think what folks have heard so far is that Republicans and Democrats can find a lot of common ground, even on this topic, and I am here today because securing our border and fixing our broken immigration system is a priority for me and for the State of Arizona.

The State of Arizona bears the brunt of Washington's failure on this issue, and this is a national security issue. For decades now, politicians have tried and failed to fix our border and fix our immigration system. We see crisis after crisis under administrations of both parties, and we see attempts by Congress to pass reforms fizzle out over and over and over again, because on this issue, more than any other, folks often retreat to partisan corners rather than finding common ground that we know exists.

It is what led the Federal Government to fail border States like Arizona for decades when it comes to border security, and it has led to a broken immigration system that doesn't work for families. It doesn't work for Dreamers. It doesn't work for businesses, small and large, and it doesn't work for our country.

In Arizona, these aren't abstract issues. These aren't theoretical questions to debate over. These are real problems, and Arizonans deserve real

solutions. Our State is left to deal with crisis after crisis at the border, including the one we are facing right now, where record numbers of border crossings are straining law enforcement, and it is straining humanitarian organizations.

This is unsustainable, and a change to title 42 authority now is only going to make these challenges worse.

So that is why we are here today, because it is past time for Congress to work together to reform the broken immigration system and plan better to prevent this continued humanitarian crisis.

Over the past couple of weeks, including today, I have been speaking with Arizona officials on the border about the situation on the ground. That includes Border Patrol, who are seeing their staff stretched even further. That includes cities and counties that are having their emergency services strained. And that includes humanitarian and nonprofit organizations that are trying to increase their capacity because they are being stretched so thin. And they are expecting to be stretched even further just to help people.

So I have been pushing the Department of Homeland Security as they work to mobilize as much staffing and resources and coordination as they can ahead of a change in the title 42 authority. There is a lot left to do, and I will keep working with them toward a secure, humane, and orderly process at the border.

But ultimately—ultimately—Congress needs to step up too. We have to do our jobs, because it is not just Arizona that sees the impacts of Washington's collective repeated failures to tackle this issue. There are hundreds of thousands of Dreamers across the country who are just as American as my own two kids or my grandkid, and they still do not have a pathway to citizenship.

They watch every court case, every legislative effort to understand how it will impact their lives. That is so they can determine if they can continue living, studying, and working in the only country that they have ever known. Planning their lives, their careers, their goals based on the outcome of a court hearing or what we do in this room or fail to do—that is just wrong.

They deserve a pathway to citizenship. I know it is a priority for many whom I have spoken to here over the last 2 years. It is time we do this.

Furthermore, our immigration system just doesn't work for our economy. Across the country, there are businesses that can't get the workforce they need or that face huge backlogs in the immigration system, and a lot of families face similar backlogs too. These are folks who are following the rules laid out by our laws, but still run into a wall of bureaucracy. It is leading to labor shortages that squeeze supply chains and raise prices. So let's fix it.

And let's take action to better secure the border. That includes putting up

physical barriers where they make sense, just like I have been able to do in places like the Morelos Dam in Yuma, where I pushed to finish the construction, but also hiring more Border Patrol personnel, increasing their pay, and deploying more of the right technology.

Here is the thing. When you are willing to sit down and really work together, you find that there is a lot of common ground on this issue.

So that is my message to my colleagues today: Come to the table, and let's get this done. Let's stop just kicking the can down the road. Let's do the tough work that we were sent here to do and get something done to secure the border and fix our broken immigration system.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I know Arizonans feel the same way. As I have talked with you, I have talked to some of my colleagues. Nevadans are frustrated. Time and again, over the last two decades, they have seen Congress work toward much needed legislation on immigration only for reasonable bipartisan agreements to fall apart because someone is playing politics.

We saw this happen in the Senate just last week, when, with some of my colleagues—the Presiding Officer, because of you, and Senator TILLIS—we saw a framework of a bipartisan bill to give Dreamers a pathway to citizenship that also provided additional resources to increase our border security. There was a balance there to address what we are hearing. I heard from my colleagues today, and we are seeing on the news what is happening on the southern border right now. But just as we seemed to be closing in on a deal, it unfortunately fell through once more.

Now, I know the hope is that we will continue to work on this in the new Congress, and I hope we do. I hope we are able to bring more of our colleagues together because, if we don't, the alternative is just unacceptable.

There is broad bipartisan consensus in my State and, I know, across this country, and I have heard it from some of my colleagues, that Congress must create a path to citizenship for Dreamers across the country.

Now, we are just talking about Dreamers. I heard Senator BLUNT earlier say that the solution for Dreamers exists and that should be the easy thing to pass.

Why? You know, it has really been over two decades since legislation was first introduced to protect people who were brought to this country as children and who love the only home they have ever known. That is our Dreamers.

It has been over a decade since the creation of the DACA Program, which protects some, but not all, of our Dreamers. What is more, the program continues to face legal challenges.

That has left not just Nevadan Dreamers but so many Dreamers across this country in a terrifying limbo. Without legal protections, Dreamers can't reach their full potential, even though many of them have had incredible successes, thanks, in part, to DACA.

There are 12,000 DACA recipients in Nevada alone and many thousands more Dreamers that we know in Nevada and across this country. And I have heard my colleagues say it. They are teachers. They are business owners. They are healthcare professionals. They are servicemembers. They go to work and school every day. They pay taxes. They care for their families, and they contribute to our communities.

All over this country, Dreamers enrich our Nation. Not only do they want a path to citizenship; they deserve it. They were on the frontlines during our pandemic. They were the essential workers.

You know, I heard my colleagues talk about Dreamers—and I know the Presiding Officer knows this—but I think oftentimes we need to bring to Washington the faces of the very people we are talking about because sometimes it gets lost. We talk about numbers. We have graphs that say we should do this, that we should do that. But we don't actually have the very people whom we are talking about in front of us right now so that we could show our colleagues who may not be familiar with a Dreamer what we are talking about.

So this is a stack of letters that I received from Dreamers in Nevada and from across the country. I want to bring attention to some of these Dreamers whom I know who have sent me letters, because this is truly why we should be working on, at the very least, legislation that focuses on moving the ball forward when it comes to our Dreamers.

This is from a Dreamer in Nevada. His name is Ricardo. He says:

I am an undocumented student at the College of Southern Nevada. I will be graduating in the spring of 2023 with a 4.0 GPA and I am going to be majoring in real estate. Prior to studying at the College of Southern Nevada, I graduated from the Northwest Career and Technical Academy with a high honor diploma and a GPA of 3.65. This track record in school has allowed me to be eligible for many opportunities that unfortunately I haven't been able to take advantage of due to my status.

Even though I have done many things to be a stellar student and get opportunities, I have only been able to go so far with my academics because of my status. Many times throughout my life, both in school and outside, I have been told that I can do anything I wanted in life as long as I worked hard for it. So far, I have worked twice as hard to get half as much success as many of my friends.

I will tell you, that it is true for all of the Dreamers that I talk to. They work hard. They love this country. It is the only country they know. They do everything they can to excel, whether it is in school or at work. They want to be a part of our workforce. They are committed to doing so. And that is

why, as Senator BLUNT said, this should be an easy solution.

I will tell you, by the way, these are not just Dreamers in Nevada whom I talk about all the time—and I am proud to. I got letters from Dreamers in Kentucky. I got letters from Dreamers in Texas. They are all over this country, and they are similar. They are similar to the ones that I just talked about.

So, yes, I think Dreamers deserve a pathway to citizenship, but not sometime in the future, not in some future Congress, but now. People on both sides of the aisle know this. That is why we have been close to compromise so frequently and so frustratingly. But I know it is possible to come together on a compromise that supports Dreamers and, yes, increases border security. We can do both. They are not mutually exclusive. We can work to secure our borders and still work to pass legislation to put Dreamers on a pathway. We can do both. It is common sense.

We need these reforms. We need to focus on moving forward and not just pointing fingers at the problem.

We just heard Senator LEAHY earlier today give his farewell speech. In it he talked about the importance of us not only working together to come to compromise, but he talked about that we have to stop finger-pointing. We have got to stop finger-pointing to the problem for political advantage and start pointing the way to a solution. That is what this needs now. This is the moment for all of us to come together to really find a solution here at the end of the day, to get in a room and have commonsense legislation that moves this issue forward, because the truth is that there is no need for us to face one crisis after another on our southern border.

Congress's role—and, believe me, this is Congress's role—is to solve this problem by working together, but partisan finger-pointing and blame games keep it from getting it done.

I know. I just came off of an election cycle. I know. I can tell you that my opponent, instead of coming up with a solution, all he wanted to do was point to the border. But, I will tell you, I wasn't sent to Congress—I wasn't sent here—to just point blame, identify the problem, and do nothing about it. We are sent here to solve problems.

These aren't easy issues. That is why it requires us to work together.

I have to thank the Presiding Officer because of your willingness to reach across the aisle, and you recognize the importance of working together to solve problems. That is why I have hope that we can still get this done.

Hearing from some of my colleagues today, I agree with them. There is a problem at the border. We have got to fix it. I know it. I was attorney general for 8 years in my State. Do you know one of the issues I worked on even though I wasn't in a border state? The border and the southern border, because we had drug trafficking issues.

We had human trafficking issues, money laundering, and weapons trafficking that bled into my State because of what was happening at the border.

So my focus has always been: Yes, putting those resources at the border to address those issues, including the fentanyl that is coming across the border now. And we can do that and still address an issue for so many Dreamers who are already here, living in our communities, who want to be an essential part of our workforce.

Why is that important? Because right now we have seen such an incredible change in America and across the world since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. During that time, workers retired, immigration slowed, and labor markets tightened as a result. This country needs workers in industries from the tech sector to agriculture, to home healthcare and childcare, and we need them badly.

And here is what I know, and we all know this: that, according to the Department of Labor, the United States has a labor shortfall of roughly 3.5 million people.

This is our workforce. If we were to pass this pathway for citizenship for so many, this is a part of our essential workforce. They are already here.

We are feeling this workforce shortfall in Nevada, and I hear it across the country from my colleagues when we talk. Every week I hear from business owners in Nevada who tell me about their struggle to find employees. Comprehensive immigration reforms would let us welcome workers in a way that benefits our society and our economy and treats those who want to come to America with dignity.

Yet we are not enacting them. The last time Congress passed comprehensive immigration reform was when Ronald Reagan was President.

Madam President, Nevada sent me back to the Senate because they believe. They believe not only that I can reach across the aisle to make change but that I will do it. They have seen me do it before. They know I will work with anyone who is willing to come to the table. But we need serious action, and I hope my colleagues, whether they are in my party or nonpartisan or they are Republicans, are willing to come to the table to find a solution.

We need that willingness to work together and to act on issues like Dreamers, like border security. I know my colleague from Texas who is here is going to talk about that. I agree with him. But we can do both. We can do both and do right by so many and move this country forward.

As long as I am in the Senate, I am going to be a voice for Dreamers because they are a part of the fabric of this country. I will work with anyone to fix our broken immigration system and ensure we keep our borders secure.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

CHILDREN'S MEDICINE

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I rise today to call attention to a very serious issue and potential crisis that seems to be unfolding right under our eyes and under the radar. Right now, many, many communities across our country are facing a huge shortage of children's painkillers, like Children's Tylenol, and antibiotics, like amoxicillin.

We are in the middle of flu season and in an unusually bad year for RSV, a virus that can be especially tough on young children. As parents head to pharmacies to get medicines to help their sick kids and to make them feel better, they are seeing very empty shelves across our country.

My staff is hearing from folks daily about the problems that they are seeing trying to find these medicines, both over-the-counter and prescription.

David, a pharmacist from Andalusia, AL, told that "currently [they] cannot order multiple antibiotics commonly used for pediatric patients, including amoxicillin." He is also unable to order pain medicine like Tylenol and Advil. It is not available.

You can't even order it, much less get it. David was told by his wholesaler that the supply of medication simply does not exist, as we speak—and this is in the middle of a very serious flu and cold season all throughout our country.

Another pharmacist, Dennis from Opelika, AL, faces the same problem and described the potentially dire nature of the shortage. He told me: "This can rapidly"—and is rapidly—"turning into a serious situation among the most vulnerable population," which is "our children."

Worse is what some desperate but well-meaning parents are turning to in order to provide their children some help. Moms and dads who can't find kids' medicines are choosing to give their children smaller doses of adult medicine instead. Doctors are warning constantly against this in the strongest possible terms—a warning we should be sharing far and wide: Children's medicine is specifically designed for the developing of young bodies.

But parents with sick children don't have time to drive from town to town to search for these medicines. This crisis is developing across the country, and we should not wait for it to get worse before doing something about it. We cannot allow this situation to turn into the baby formula crisis.

While this medication shortage will, no doubt, require a short-term solution, I want to take a minute to highlight an important long-term solution to these supply chain problems.

We need to produce pharmaceuticals in the United States. Very little of that happens today. The United States has every capability to be able to produce essential goods right here at home. The pandemic showed us the very serious consequences of depending on imports for things that we need to